

In conclusion, I might also add that with these caged birds mating took place at any hour of the day and was not confined to early mornings, as mentioned by Mr. Salim A. Ali.

BENARES HINDU UNIVERSITY,

N. K. TIWARY.

October 16, 1929.

## XX.—LATE STAY OF GREY QUAIL (*COTURNIX* *COTURNIX*) IN BIHAR

While riding over a portion of the Gogra Diara (river bed) on the 23rd of June, I put up a large number of Grey Quail out of the tall grass through which I had a line of beaters beating for pig. It struck me that it was unusually late for this quail. This note may elicit similar observations made by other members.

URNA ESTATE,

A. MACDONALD.

MAROWRAH P.O.,

B.&N.W.Ry.,

August 15, 1929.

## XXI.—BREEDING OF GEESE AND DUCKS IN CHINESE TURKISTAN

The following might be of interest. It was noticed that the following birds had their young hatched in the first week of June on the Tekkesse River, 50 miles below Shotta.

Grey Lag Goose (*Anser anser*)

Bar-headed Goose (*Anser indicus*)

Brahminy Duck (*Casarca ferruginea*)

Mallard (*Anas platyryncha*)

BRITISH CONSULATE GENERAL.

KASHGAR,

G. SHERRIFF,

July 18, 1929.

Capt., R.A.

## XXII.—HOW THE MONITOR LIZARD SITS IN ITS BURROW

In the last week of July this year, the Zoology staff and Post-graduate students of our college, accompanied by three snake-charmers, went out into the jungle round about Midhaku, a small village near Agra. The purpose was to see the *fauna* of this place in its natural haunts. Besides catching several centipedes, insects, snakes and other animals, we secured eight monitor lizards (*Varanus bengalensis*), which are quite common here. The snake-charmers had a remarkable sense of recognition of their traces. My attention was especially drawn to the bold way, in which, after digging a burrow waist-deep with the *kudal*, they would half dive into it and fearlessly drag out a big, struggling specimen by the tail. The monitor has strong jaws, and can give a bite not easy to forget. Last year a snake-charmer was bitten,

and after many futile efforts to release his finger from inside the reptile's mouth, we had, as a last resource, to cut the jaws open with scissors. It was a terrible bite! In spite of such experiences, however, the snake-charmers do not seem to think much of risking their heads and hands in a monitor's burrow. On enquiring, I learnt that the creature has the habit of always sitting in the burrow with its tail nearer, and its head away from, the opening. Once the tail is caught, it cannot turn its clumsy length round to bite at the offender, and the catcher is safe.

BENI CHARAN MAHENDRA,  
*Lecturer in Zoology.*

ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE,  
AGRA,  
October 26, 1929.

### XXIII.—OCCURRENCE OF THE RUSSELL'S VIPER IN THE BRAHMAPUTRA VALLEY

In Colonel Wall's book on Poisonous Indian Snakes he states that the Russel's Viper is not found in the Brahmaputra valley. I personally have seen two undoubted specimens in this district which lies close to the Bhutan foothills. I have a specimen at present in my possession which corresponds accurately with the description, detailed and general, given in Colonel Wall's book. If you wish, I will send the specimen to you for confirmation; but as it is my only specimen of this snake, will you please undertake to return it?

PANEERY,  
PANERIHAT P.O.,  
August 17, 1929.

J. LOUDON.

[The snake forwarded to us by Mr. Loudon is a Russell's (*V. russellii*).—EDS.]

### XXIV.—THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BANDED KRAIT (*BUNGARUS FASCIATUS*)

On October 24th I was motoring in the Sal forest some five or six miles from Gorakhpur, and was making a sharp hair-pin turn from one of the narrow forest cuttings to another. The time was about 6.45 and it was pitch dark.

A large snake, which was coiled up on the path, unwound when my headlights struck it, and made off into the jungle. I tried to run over it, but am not sure if I was successful, as my wife would not hear of my going back to make investigations. The snake was so brilliantly banded, and these bands showed up so well under my headlights, that it seemed a definitely characteristic one. The same evening in the Club the matter was discussed and the consensus of opinion was that it was a Banded Krait (*Bungarus fasciatus*).